

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:49p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene W. Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria L. Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sharron Lipford, Director of Public Engagement, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk, Christian Smith, Marketing & Communication Specialist, Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer,

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Porter

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Public Session Agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

**1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting minutes for Monday, May 6, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the Public Session Meeting minutes

for Monday, May 13, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

## **2. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Chulmin Jo-My Beauty Supply, 5931-B Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy, Seat Pleasant, MD inquired on a petition to receive grant construction cost for steel door, the code for remodeling steel door, how to select the contractor, and how to receive the inspection for the installation of the steel door.
- Katrina Robinson-6210 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, Md inquired of the Senior Lawn Service for Seniors will resume. A resident asked if the city could use a banner to inform residents of events, as some do not have access to internet. Requested prayer for Ms. Annie Walls resident of the city. Ms. Robinson complimented the city on the Community Fish Fry event held on Saturday, June 8, 2019.
- Naomi Bowman-303 71<sup>st</sup> Ave., Seat Pleasant, MD inquired if the Fire Department was open 24/7 as she cannot reach anyone in person or by telephone. Ms. Bowman stated that they had taken the battery for Carbon Monoxide Detector and it has not been returned. Ms. Bowman stated that the Fish Fry food and activities were good, but a notice should be given stated that food will be provided for a certain time, as the food had run out before the event was over.
- Rudolph Taylor-303 71<sup>st</sup> Ave., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that the traffic light at Drylog and Addison Rd is too short. The light only allots for two cars to come through on a green light.
- Mary Barber-6020 Crown St., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that Ms. Blater done a fabulous job with planning the Community Fish Fry. Mrs. Barber inquired if residents could pay less for vendor for city events?

## **3. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **3.1. 6607 Greig St. Variance Request**

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the property on Greig Street had submitted a variance request in February with a stop work order. The residents had complained about the water on their property after the work was being

performed with the removal of the retaining wall. The concerns increased were the increased of the rain that lead to additional water. The Real Estate firm has agreed to install a swell to prevent the water concerns at cost up to \$800.00 and the contractor rate of \$500.00.

- Mr. Basile stated that he has copies of drawings for the Mayor and City Council. He submitted the narrative and the drawings to the Mayor, City Council and City Clerk. The drawings for lot 8 and 10 are the elevation of 201 feet on lot 8 and lot 10 elevation is 191 feet, which has always been the condition of lot 10.
- Mr. Basile stated that the property had a retaining wall on lot 10 and the wall stretched from the right to second red arrow, and it was removed. The owner stated removal of the retaining wall may have caused additional water. The narrative provided by the engineer states that the retaining wall removal did not create any additional drainage. The recommendation is to build and/or install a swell to have the water drain away from the property. The client would to provide the money to the homeowner for her to choose her own contractor. They are willing to re-install the retaining wall.
- Mayor Grant thanked Mr. Basile for coming to the City and providing a solution. Mayor Grant stated he would like to have the resident, Councilmember Love and the attorney to address the resolution. He feels it is an amicable solution that has been offered.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is not certain if the \$500 will be enough and wanted to know if they are willing to provide the difference? Also, if the swell would be enough to address the concerns.
- Mayor Grant stated that the city's position is the resident first.
- Mayor Grant stated that we appreciate you taking care of the property as it was an eyesore in the community.
- Councilmember Jones inquired who build the retaining wall on the property. Mr. Basile stated that the wall was there when his client purchased the property.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that a wall and swell is what he would like to see, as they would require a warrant to ensure the property owner is protected.

#### 4. LEGISLATION

**4.1. Ordinance O-19-16 Amendment of Chapter 107-Licensing** was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, June 10, 2019.

**4.2. Resolution R-19-11 Approval of Fess and Charges for the City of Seat Pleasant** was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, June 10, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve Resolution R-19-11 The motion carried.

For: Jones, Love, Maxwell, McCarthy, Porter and Yeargin

Against: Sistrunk

## **5. REPORTS:**

### **5.1. Council President Report**

- Council President Yeargin stated that his report can be found on Board Docs for April.

### **5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant**

- Mayor Grant greeted the Council, residents and staff for their attendance in the meeting.
- Mayor Grant commended Councilmember McCarthy for the If I Were Mayor Contest. He thanked Councilmember Porter for his years of service. He thanked Councilmember McCarty for assisting the Police Department with the presentation of awards at Seat Pleasant Elementary School and the work with the children. He thanked Councilmember Sistrunk for her Ward V meeting held on today. He thanked Councilmember Maxwell for his Ward I Appreciation Day and the Ward I Community Walk. He stated that the relationship with the community and the Police Department is strained, but he thanks the Police Department for their work in the Community.
- Mayor Grant and Mrs. Wallace stated that they have not received any complaints on the Police Department. The Police Department has a job to do and they will do their job by ensuring the law is being adhered to.
- Mayor Grant stated that Councilmember Jones is not the person to look for the media to receive coverage of what she does. Councilmember Jones has taken out her check book to write a check to the African American Museum and The MLK statue.

- Mayor Grant stated that she has received a letter from the African American Museum and the curators. Mayor Grant stated that she could have chosen to do other things with her money, but she chose to contribute to African American History and cultural.
- Mayor Grant thanked Councilmember Porter for the event and doing it in a way to work with everyone.
- Councilmember Porter has always masked the challenge and not put any negative information out about the City.
- Mayor Grant stated that we all know that we are not perfect and make mistakes. We have been beat up so much and we need someone to sympathize with us and not beat us up.
- Mayor Grant stated that he could not say enough about Councilmember Love and her name certainly applies to her. He stated what is in a name and he has found it in her the attributes of both of her names. She has given hope and encouragement to residents.
- Mayor Grant stated that a family member was going through financial hardship due to a deceased member of their family, and you went into your own pockets and provided to the families. You provided food and resources to others and he is certain she needed the resources due to her own health challenges.
- Mayor Grant stated that she provided hope for the residents that was facing challenges. Mayor Grant stated that there is a lot going on behind the dais with the Council that many may not know about.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will tell the story as we received a lot of criticism from the residents.
- Mayor Grant stated that Mr. Jones has been coming to the meetings for some time and he has observed. They would talk after the meeting in the parking lot and Mr. Jones would state that he does not understand how they can talk about their own community.
- Mayor Grant stated that we do not need another carryout, beauty supply store or liquor store. He would like to see a sit-down restaurant in the community. We cannot attract the business that we want if we are being negative about our own community.
- Mayor Grant stated that he spoke with residents that resided in city for over sixty years and the resident stated that he sees the changes in the city. He mentioned the big belly trashcans and how clean the city has been.
- Mayor Grant stated that there are people saying positive things about the city amid others drafting letters and passing them out in the



community. The letter is to taint the reputation of the Chief of Police and the officers. They do not serve the personal criticism. The data is showing that the crime numbers are going down with no robberies in the commercial district.

- Mayor Grant stated the County Executive first official visit to the City of Seat Pleasant was last week. The staff of the County Executive immediately returned and worked on the concerns of the city. County Executive Alsobrooks stated that she wanted to come back and do a community walk in Seat Pleasant. She had instructed the Mayor and Chief to have a community walk.
- Mayor Grant stated her presence will bring a return on some of the investments. Yes, we want to see them immediately, but it is a process.
- Mayor Grant stated that home values will be increasing in the City of Seat Pleasant. Mayor Grant stated that we cannot allow the negative people to take them off course. We can continue to work together on the work we have been doing for the past two and half years. He encouraged the City Council to come to him with any concerns, as it the Council responsibility to check the Mayor. The meetings are being recorded and the Public Engagement Department should be sending the links to the City Council for them to review themselves on the tape to see how they are on camera. The meetings will be going live.
- Mayor Grant stated that this goes for the residents as well. He is not trying to create a censorship but want each person to be as professional as they can. You can bring your criticism.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are passing more substantive legislation. Mayor Grant introduced Christian Smith who is the Marketing and Community Relations person with a degree from Bowie State University and he's in school on-line with the College of Southern Maryland for his master's degree in Marketing.
- Mayor Grant stated that he had requested from the County Executive if the City could piggyback on the County T-1 Line as it is costly.
- We have our second K-9 graduate from the school and we will have an event in July for the dogs. The second dog was used in Upper Marlboro for an incident.
- Mayor Grant stated that the City of Seat Pleasant has received national and international recognition. He was approached by a Board Member at church to have a partnership with Southern Maryland for Smart Cities. The curriculum has been completed for Prince George's

County to provide a Smart City certification. We are looking to sponsor ten residents from the city. The class is \$250 per person.

- Mayor Grant stated that we are still trying to fill the boards and commission. We are advertising it in the newsletter.
- Mayor Grant stated that the president of SPICE is working with the President of the new hospital.
- Mayor Grant stated that data analytics is not new, as jobs and schools have used data analytics to drive decisions.
- Mayor Grant stated that we may use data for the streets. We may repave Crown street and the existing data will tell you the life of the asphalt for the street.
- Mayor Grant stated that the only challenge is data is on one area of data, as they have not use the number of cars that travel on the road, the weather on the asphalt, as in the summer the asphalt expands and in the winter it retracts. We need to have life cycle and cost effectiveness for the vehicles.
- The City police does not have to deal with Highway traffic but stop and go due to traveling in the city. The stop and go is a wear and tear issue. The decisions that are being made based upon data and not whether you like a person.
- Mayor Grant stated that the County Executive asked how we reduced the crime and we were able to prove the data.
- Mayor Grant stated that the crime was reduced to the usage of the IOT.
- Ms. Naomi Bowman stated that the Mayor gave the City Council accolades, but the Mayor's Tea was great!

### **5.3. Chief Operating Officer Report-Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer Report**

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the reports cover the month of April and this is the beginning of June.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the County Executive immediately followed up on the request and one of the requests was the water concerns within Ward II. Councilmember Love went door to door to speak with each resident and received additional information from the residents. The Municipal Liaison for the County Executive followed up to verify the names of the person the resident had spoken with regarding the water issues. She will be meeting with Councilmember Love to get additional information.

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Chief of Police will be hosting an expungement affair in Fall of 2019 to assist the residents to clear their records.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we have welcomed three new officers to volunteer as Reserved Officer. She has worked in five cities and you usually do not get officers to volunteer and to have them come for free. The department met with Fairmount Heights, Capitol Heights and District Heights to discuss cross border discussion. The K-9 dog graduated, and the Council Clerk coordinated and planned ten events for the Council.
- The City Clerk has prepared the Early Voting and the FOIA Request system. She will be sworn in June as the Vice President for the MMCA and she received the Clerk of Year Award.
- The economic Development Department has been pursuing more grants, the property located on Addison Rd is back on the market. We sold the property for \$208,000 and we lost a few dollars, but we now have the property on our tax rolls.
- Councilmember Jones inquired if there is a welcome package for new residents.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Public Engagement Department has the Welcome Packets.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1. None**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Governmental Affairs and Technology Report**

- Councilmember Maxwell stated that his report is very brief, and it is the Government Affairs and Technology responsibility to strengthen the body.
- Councilmember Maxwell stated that they will be taking it back into the Committee and bringing on a Youth Council. The committee is working hard to gather information on that from their colleagues and to see if the city can take a position on.

## **8 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **8.1. Movie Night with Mayor Grant and Councilmember Jones, Friday, June 14, 2019, Highland Park at 7:00pm**



**8.2 MML Summer Conference, Sunday, June 23-26, 2019, Ocean City, MD**

**8.3 Regular Work Session, Monday, July 1, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 6:00pm**

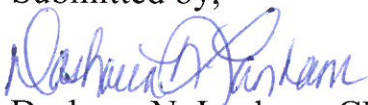
**8.4 Public Session, Monday, July 8, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 at 7:00pm**

**8.5 Ward II Meeting, Monday, July 29, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**9. ADJOURN-**

The Public Session meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED 07/08/19